

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PARENTAL ALCOHOL-RELATED BEHAVIORS AND CHILDREN'S DRINKING

Gianbattista Modonutti *University Department of Clinical Medical and Surgical Sciences and of the Health, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy*

Maria Fiore *Department "GF Ingrassia", Sector of Hygiene and Public Health, Catania University, Catania, Italy*

Fulvio Costantinides *University Department of Clinical Medical and Surgical Sciences and of the Health, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy*

Luca Leon *University Department of Clinical Medical and Surgical Sciences and of the Health, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy*

Gea Oliveri Conti *Department "GF Ingrassia", Sector of Hygiene and Public Health, Catania University, Catania, Italy*

Roberto Fallico *Department "GF Ingrassia", Sector of Hygiene and Public Health, Catania University, Catania, Italy*

Margherita Ferrante *Department "GF Ingrassia", Sector of Hygiene and Public Health, Catania University, Catania, Italy*

Background and Aims. Many researches have evidenced a high prevalence of youthful use of alcohol. Aim of this study was to acquire information about the pupil's alcohol-related behaviors and parent's use of and attitudes toward alcohol in order to assess the presence of early risk behaviors in pupils.

Methods. The data were collected using a questionnaire anonymous, semi-structured and self-administered. A total of 281 pupils resident in Catania (Males: 49.8% Females: 50.2%), aged between 6 -12 years have joined the survey .

Results. 42.3% of the pupils have already tasted alcohol (M: 49.3% F: 35.5%, $p < 0.025$), in particular the 29.9% the wine (M: 35.0% F: 24.8%), the 30.6% the beer (M: 40.7% F: 20.6%, $p < 0.0005$) and 12.8% the strong drinks (M: 16.4%, F: 9.2%). 40.2% of the pupils (ages 6-12) drink alcohol (M: 44.3% F: 36.2%). Overall, 60.5% of pupils live with families who use alcohol at the meal (M: 63.6% F: 57.4%) and the fathers drinking are more frequent than mothers drinking (M: 63.7% F: 24.9%, $p < 0.0005$). The pupils that had tasted alcohol and live with parents drinker (52.9%) are significantly more numerous ($p < 0.0005$) than those living with parents non-drinker (21.6%). At the end, the percentage of pupils drinker (54.1%) living with parents drinker was significantly higher ($p < 0.0005$) than that living with parents non-drinker (18.0%).

Conclusions. Results highlight an early/widespread alcohol use and an elevated prevalence of pupils who use alcohol. Moreover the findings suggest that living with parents drinkers favor the initiation and use of alcoholic beverages.

References:

- Aas, H., Jakobsen, R., Anderssen, N. Predicting 13-year-olds' drinking using parents' self-reported alcohol use and restrictiveness compared with offspring's perception. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology* 1996;37:113-120.
- Adlaf, E.M., Ivis, F.J. Structure and relations: the influence of familial factors on adolescent substance use and delinquency. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse* 1996;5:1-19.
- Ary, D.V., Tildesley, E., Hops, H., Andrews, J. The influence of parent, sibling, and peer modeling and attitudes on adolescent use of alcohol. *International Journal of the Addictions* 1993;28: 853-888.
- Coombs, R.H., Paulson, M.J., Richardson, M.A. Peer vs. parental influence in substance use among hispanic and anglo children and adolescents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 1991;20: 78-88.
- Dembo, R., Grandon, G., La Voie, L., Schmeidler, J., Burgos, W. Parents and drugs revisited: some further evidence in support of social learning theory. *Criminology* 1986;24:85-104.
- Fleming, C.B., Brewer, D.D., Gaine, R.R., Haggerty, K.P., Catalano, R.F. Parent drug use and bonding to parents as predictors of substance use in children of substance abusers. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse* 1997;6:75-86.
- Giovanni B. Modonutti, Anna Altobello, Maria Fiore, Christian Garascia, Luca Leon, Gina E. Sciacca, Roberto Fallico, Margherita Ferrante Abitudini alcoliche e intossicazione acuta da alcol fra gli studenti della scuola media catanese. *Ig. Sanità Pubbl.* 2009; 65:323-334.
- Halebsky, M.A., Adolescent alcohol and substance abuse: parent and peer effects. *Adolescence* 1987;22:961-967.
- Sjostrom, O., Holst, D. Validity of a questionnaire survey: response patterns in different subgroups and the effect of social desirability. *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* 2002;60:136-140.
- Smith, G.T., Miller, T.L., Kroll, L., Simmons, J.R., Gallen, R. Children's perceptions of parental drinking: the eye of the beholder. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 1999;60:817-824.
- Webb, J.A., Baer, P.E. Influence of family disharmony and parental alcohol use on adolescent social skills, self-efficacy, and alcohol use. *Addictive Behaviors* 1995;20:127-135.
- Welte, J.W., Barnes, G.M., Hoffman, J.H., Dintcheff, B.A. Trends in adolescent alcohol and other substance use: relationships to trends in peer, parent, and school influences. *Substance Use and Misuse* 1999;34:1427-1449.
- Yu, J. Perceived parental/peer attitudes and alcohol-related behaviors: an analysis of the impact of the drinking age law. *Substance Use and Misuse* 1998;33:2687-2702.
- Yu, J., Perrine, M.W. The transmission of parent/adult-child drinking patterns: testing a gender-specific structural model. *American Journal of Drug Abuse* 1997;23:143-165.
- Zhang, L., Welte, J.W., Wiczorek, W.F. The influence of parental drinking and closeness on adolescent drinking. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 1999;60:245-251.